to the Company for taking steps to further improve its performance. No major/serious shortcomings in the functioning of M/s. HAL have been revealed during the last three years.

Employment in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands

2039. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert group has examined ways of increasing employment potential in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands and made several recommendations for development of the areas; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on the recommendations of the group?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The expert group constituted by the Island Development Authority has looked into the unemployement problems in A & N Lakshadweep. Islands. The interim report of the group was discussed in the 4th meeting of IDA. The short term measures include;

(i) Implementation of 7th Plan schemes to be speeded up;

(ii) 2 new ITIs to be set up;

(iii) UT Administration to sponsor candidates for apprentice training schemes on the mainland;

(iv) Coaching/guidance scheme be started which will enable the qualified Islanders to compete favourably for available employment opportunities;

(v) In Port Blair some pre-selection training centres to be set up;

(vi) Efforts to absorb scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates against reserved quota in national banking service and other spheres.

UT Administration is working out the detailed implementation plan for these short-term measures.

Possibilities of accidental contamination of environment and ground water supplies

@2040. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a potential danger from accidental contamination of the immediate environment and ground water supplies as happened in Morris county in New Jersey on two separate occasions: and

(b) whether decision to permit food irradiation will be reviewed in the light of know dangers to environment and human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The question of contamination of immediate environment of a nuclear power station has been studied and all measures are taken to eliminate this possibility.

(b) There is no danger to the environment form food irradiation facilities and hence there is no need to review the decision to permit food irradiation of certain food articles approved by the National Monitoring Agency.

R and D efforts of Atomic Energy Establishments

2041. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a breakthrough regarding the nuclear fuel in the

@Previously Unstarred Question 1682, transferred from the 9th August, 1988.